

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claim 3 has been amended to replace “a liquid alicyclic epoxy resin” and “a solid alicyclic epoxy resin” with --a liquid alicyclic epoxy resin not containing aromatic group-- and --a solid alicyclic epoxy resin not containing aromatic group--, respectively. These amendments are supported, for example, at page 5 of the specification of the present application, 1st full paragraph.

No new matter has been added, and entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 will be all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Office Action, Claims 3, 5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hinata et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,687,465) in view of Khan et al (WO 97/39380), JP ‘527 and Suzuki et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,576,896). Further, in Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, Claims 2, 6 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hinata et al in view of Khan et al, JP ‘527, and Suzuki et al, and further in view of “HDBU”.

In response to Applicants’ arguments in the Response previously filed on June 26, 2003, and requested to be entered along with an RCE on September 26, 2003, the Examiner asserted that the features upon which Applicants relied, i.e., the solid and the liquid epoxy alicyclic resin not containing aromatic group and that epoxy resins such as cresol novolak epoxy and phenol novolak epoxy differs from the resins used in the present invention, are not recited in the rejected claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Attorney Docket No. Q60771

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position for the following reasons. The present claims recite "a liquid alicyclic epoxy resin" and "a solid alicyclic epoxy resin" (emphasis added). It is implicit by definition, that an alicyclic resin does not contain any conjugated double bonds, e.g., benzene ring. See page 5 of the specification of the present application, 1st full paragraph. That is, an alicyclic resin does not contain any aromatic groups.

Nonetheless, to further the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have in the Amendment, amended Claim 3 to explicitly recite --a liquid alicyclic epoxy resin not containing an aromatic group-- and --a solid alicyclic epoxy resin not containing an aromatic group--.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 16, 2004